Periodic Inspection according to DS/EN ISO 10535:2006

Guldmann™

Guidance for 6-month inspection of slings

Sling inspection technique

The sling inspection procedure should be thorough, systematic and consistent; both visual and "hands on" inspection techniques are recommended.

Certain forms of damage are far more discernable through hands-on inspection, than by visual inspection. For example, fabric stiffness, crushed webbing, as well as thinning fabric can be identified through tactile inspection. Visual inspection alone may not reveal all forms of sling damage.

Once signs of damage have been identified, do not downgrade the work load limit of the sling with the intent of continuing to use it, but at limited capacity or frequency. This is sometimes done to get more service life out of a damaged sling. The operating rule and standard should be: intact = use; damage = do not use.

Consider the practice of documenting sling inspections through written inspection records. The documentation should include information such as: the name of manufacturer, the sling stock number, width and length, the unique sling identification number (important in differentiating similar slings), as well as the condition of the sling. Other important information might also include the date it was received or put into use at your facility and any special features (if applicable).

Considerations for damaged or defective slings and taking them out of service:

Consider removal of slings from service if any of the following conditions exist:

1. chemical or caustic burns
2. melting or charring of any part of the sling
3. snags, punctures, tears or cuts
4. broken or worn stitches
5. missing, illegible or incomplete sling tag
6. knots in any part of the sling
7. abrasion
8. other visible damage that causes doubt as to the strength of the sling

Sling inspection is done for the protection of the patient, the caregiver, and the overall hospital site safety. A sling inspection system has additional benefit. Systematic sling inspection will assist in the identification of damage trends, potentially leading to cost effective suggestions and results. The inspection process can also help to identify inventory duplicity in certain sling types and sizes.

NB: *Inspections should be performed by a person who is suitably and properly qualified and well acquainted with the design, use and care of the slings.*

Examples of defective slings:

Broken stitching

Knots

Crushed/frayed webbing

Melting/charring

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Sling Type: _____

Serial Number: _____

Checklist

1. Is the sling's label present, legible and complete?

☐ Check for missing, illegible or incomplete sling label(s). This could compromise identification of an appropriate size of the sling, function of sling, and or weight limit capacity of the sling

2. Are the lifting straps and stitches intact?

☐ Check for broken or worn stitches
☐ Check for knots in straps
☐ Check for tears or fraying of straps
☐ Check for snags or punctures or holes
☐ Check for any particles in fabric of straps

3. Is the fabric intact?

☐ Check for abnormal wear patterns, excessive wear, abrasive evidence
☐ Check for cuts or frayed fabric
☐ Check for unusual or significant discoloration
☐ Check for snags, punctures, tears, holes
☐ Check for frayed or insecure seams
☐ Check for any acid / caustic / thermal burns
☐ Check for changes in material consistency, e.g. increased stiffness
☐ Check for any imbedded particles

4. Are slings the original size and length without the use of knots, pins, tape or other methods to change the shape, shorten or lengthen them?

Comments: _____

Inspection date: _____

Inspection by: _____

Time to care

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